

From: rosing@peakfive.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/12/02 2:02pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

This is in response to the Microsoft Settlement.

I'm disappointed because the settlement will not lead to a competitive business environment. It's clear that Microsoft has a monopoly. I can't run my business without paying Microsoft. The problem with the settlement is that it doesn't address the fact that Microsoft already has a monopoly. To rectify this the settlement should encourage more competition. The settlement makes a reasonable attempt at fixing some obvious problems in how Microsoft interacts with other companies and how they can modify or use Microsoft's operating system, but there is a lot more to using an operating system or writing applications for an operating system than setting icons. Microsoft should have to make any changes to the operating system available to the entire public long enough ahead of time of implementing them that other companies can use the changes in a competitive manner with Microsoft's other software products.

Another approach to ensuring competition would be to encourage a competitive operating system for PCs. My biggest complaint with Microsoft is that it has little to no competition. The consumer is stuck with whatever Microsoft comes up with no matter how many errors or worthless features are in it. If the Mac OS ran on PCs then Microsoft would be pressured to fix some obvious problems. If there were a company with enough capitol to build a simple interface for Linux then Microsoft would have real competition. I would like to see the settlement structured to have Microsoft pay for the development of a competitive product, either Mac OS on a PC or a simple Linux interface, then have Microsoft's operating system made public.

Thank you,

Matthew Rosing